

Coins

Carter is newest link in a chain of medals

By Roger Boye

SOME NUMISMATIC odds and ends are the subject of this week's column:

● The United States Mint has produced a medal honoring President Carter as part of its relatively little known National Medals program.

The bronze medal comes in two sizes and includes a likeness of Carter and some words from his inaugural address: "The American dream endures. We must once again have faith in our country."

In addition to bronze medals honoring each President, the mint has produced numismatic memorials to, among others, secretaries of the treasury, U.S. Mint directors (but not vice presidents or secretaries of state), and historic buildings and sites. The medals program was started in the 1860s.

By mail, medals in the presidential series cost \$6.30 each for the 3-inch-diameter size, or 60 cents for the 1 and $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch size. To order a medal or obtain a free brochure describing the 350 medals in the program, write to the Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175.

● Collectors can now have some of their paper money rarities authenticated by the American Numismatic Association Certification Service (ANACS).

Specifically, the ANACS experts will examine Colonial, Confederate, and Continental currency, and most obsolete bank notes. Before this, the service accepted only coins.

For a schedule of fees, write ANACS at 818 N. Cascade Av., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903.

● ANA executives have announced

the organization's first "mid-year convention" will be held Feb. 15 to 19 in Colorado Springs. The ANA year begins next August with the national convention, which usually attracts several thousand collectors. Some hobby leaders have been saying for quite a while that the ANA could easily support a second convention each year.

● An enthusiastic collector in Oak Forest, Howard W. Ribbentrop, believes coin buffs should belong to a club to fully appreciate the hobby.

So, when Ribbentrop discovered that there were no organizations for collectors living in or near Oak Forest, he organized the Oak Forest Coin Club, the Chicago area's newest club for coin collectors.

Ribbentrop said that persons attending the club's first two meetings were "doing a lot of coin trading" and several persons discussed coins that they had brought with them. He and others are planning the usual kind of activities for club meetings (which are open to the public): auctions, speakers, slide shows, coin bourse, and exhibits.

The club meets at 7 p. m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Oak Forest Community Center, 15601 S. Central Av., in the far southwest suburb. Officers will be elected at the next meeting Dec. 7.

The Oak Forest club is one of about 20 in the Chicago area that hold regular meetings open to collectors or others interested in the hobby. If you want information about the clubs in your area, write me, in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611.